

Executive Summary: Village Council Work Session June 4, 2026

Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Council President Cameron at 7:00 PM.

Present: Councilpersons Grant, Koss, Martin, Paessun, Pinter & Camara
Village Attorney Shamp, Mayor Southard Planning Director Fisher

Key Discussion Topics

1. Residential Waste Collection Contract Review

Council reviewed competing waste collection proposals from **Local Waste Services** and **Rumpke** for the next contract period beginning October 1, 2026.

Local Waste Services

- Monthly residential rate: approximately **\$22.25**
- Offers a **10% discount for residents age 62 and older**
- Weekly recycling service
- Existing provider with an established presence in the community

Rumpke

- Monthly residential rate: approximately **\$23.42**
- Includes annual rate increases over the contract term
- Provides carts for all residents
- Recycling collection would occur **every other week**
- Dedicated municipal support representative

Council Discussion

Council members discussed:

- Service reliability and recent missed pickups.
- Customer service responsiveness.
- Impact of changing providers on residents.
- Cost differences and senior discounts.
- Weekly versus bi-weekly recycling collection.
- Equipment, fleet sustainability, and staffing practices.

While concerns were raised regarding recent service issues with Local Waste, council members acknowledged that Local Waste has historically provided strong service and responsive issue resolution. No formal action was taken during the work session.

2. EPA Stormwater Compliance

Village leadership reported discussions with the Ohio EPA regarding compliance requirements for stormwater management.

Key Points

- The village missed a June 1 compliance deadline, but EPA representatives indicated the timeline was not punitive.

- The village needs a formalized and expanded **Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)**.
- Current plans are significantly less detailed than modern requirements.
- Franklin Soil & Water and consulting firms may assist with plan development.

Next Steps

- Coordinate with Franklin Soil & Water.
- Obtain cost estimates for assistance in preparing the required plan.
- Continue implementing annual compliance activities such as public education and stormwater awareness efforts.

Council was advised that this is primarily a compliance and documentation exercise rather than a major operational change.

3. Charter Commission Organization

The village recently completed certification of Charter Commission members.

Discussion

- Village staff currently has contact information for most commission members.
- Village email accounts will be established to ensure public-record compliance.
- Initial meetings will be coordinated through commission leadership.

Action Items

- Contact commission members lacking email credentials.
 - Organize the first Charter Commission meeting.
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4. Village Pathways Project Update

Significant progress was reported on the village's multi-phase pathways and connectivity initiative.

Funding Update

The village secured an additional:

- **\$150,000 state capital budget allocation**

Total funding commitments now include:

- Previous \$250,000 allocation
- Additional \$150,000 allocation
- Existing funding commitments, bringing the project to approximately **\$1 million in available funding**.

Engineering Phase

An RFP has been issued for engineering and design services.

Expected engineering activities include:

- Surveying
- Preliminary design
- Route evaluations
- Cost estimating
- Environmental and right-of-way assessments

Council Priorities

Council emphasized:

- Preserving aesthetics and community character.
- Minimizing unnecessary tree removal.
- Evaluating multiple route options, including Minerva Lake Road and Jordan Road.
- Receiving design alternatives before final decisions are made.

Future Work

Engineering recommendations are expected to return to council shortly for approval of a design consultant.

5. Columbus Greenway Connection Project

Administrator Fisher reported a productive meeting with Arcadis regarding the City of Columbus Greenway project.

Benefits Identified

- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
- Safety enhancements near the school and Route 161 overpass.
- Significant infrastructure investments within village boundaries.

Drainage Improvements

The project may also address longstanding drainage and ponding issues affecting properties near the school site.

Approval Process

Because portions of the project are within village boundaries:

- Planning & Zoning review will be required.
- Final approval will likely come before Village Council.

Expected review timeline:

- Within the next four to six months.
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6. Staffing and Grounds Maintenance Challenges

A major discussion centered on the village's inability to fill maintenance positions.

Current Situation

Numerous candidates:

- Failed to attend interviews.
- Failed to appear for drug testing.
- Were otherwise unqualified.

The village remains unable to hire needed maintenance personnel despite recruiting efforts dating back to early spring.

Landscaping Concerns

Council members expressed concern regarding:

- Poorly maintained courts and landscape areas.
- Overgrown weeds.

- Deteriorating appearance in several village locations.

Proposed Solutions

- Increase reliance on professional landscaping contractors.
- Develop a comprehensive landscaping maintenance plan.
- Reevaluate wage levels for maintenance positions.

General consensus favored exploring additional contracted landscaping services rather than continuing unsuccessful hiring efforts.

7. Landscape and Streetscape Planning

Additional discussion focused on:

- Entrance landscaping.
- Dead trees requiring replacement.
- Long-term beautification efforts.
- Developing a formal landscape maintenance strategy.

Staff will:

- Obtain additional proposals.
 - Explore replacement planting options.
 - Review maintenance standards.
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8. Street Tree Program Discussion

Council revisited a resident request involving installation of missing street trees.

Issues Identified

- Lack of a formal street tree policy.
- Need for consistent treatment of all residents.
- Questions regarding village versus homeowner responsibility.

Consensus

Council generally agreed:

- A written street tree program should be developed.
- Tree replacement efforts should be addressed comprehensively rather than on an individual basis.
- Fall planting season would be the preferred timeframe for replacements.

Staff will return with policy recommendations and examples from other municipalities.

9. Tree Maintenance and Removal

Staff provided updates regarding:

- Dead and damaged trees throughout the village.
- Pending tree removal requests.
- Ongoing trimming operations.

A contractor has been engaged for tree work, and additional pricing is being obtained for removal of hazardous trees.

10. Park Lane Circle Property Inquiry

Council discussed a residential property on Park Lane Circle that appears to contain excess lot area that may be capable of future subdivision.

Concerns Raised

- Potential future lot split.
- Impact on neighborhood character.
- Existing parcel configuration.

No action was taken, but council requested additional review and information regarding the property's status and development potential.

Overall Summary

The work session focused heavily on infrastructure, community maintenance, and long-term planning. Key priorities included selecting a future waste collection provider, advancing the village pathways project, addressing EPA compliance requirements, improving landscaping and maintenance operations, and developing formal policies for street trees and community appearance. Council also reviewed significant progress on grant funding and regional connectivity projects while acknowledging ongoing staffing challenges affecting village maintenance efforts.

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor